

C.H. Mason Bible College in addition to her other countless capacities within the church—locally, regionally, and nationally. She presently serves as the leader of one of COGIC's Department of Women in the State of Tennessee.

Today, I am happy to salute Bishop and Mrs. Smith as they celebrate 50 years of marriage, Bishop Smith's 75th birthday, Mrs. Smith's 70th birthday, and over 40 years of pastoral ministry.

For their devotion to God and one another, and for the high marks they continue to attain, Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives would join with me in honoring Bishop and Mrs. Samuel Smith of Memphis, Tennessee.

TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR MERCURIO

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, the destruction wrought by the large fires in Colorado and Arizona make this an appropriate occasion to honor all those who seek to prevent and mitigate the awful destructive power of fire.

Let me take a moment to commend one individual, Arthur Mercurio, for his lifelong service to the cause of fire prevention. He recently received the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) Fire Prevention Award for his efforts. As a member of of Collingswood (NJ) Volunteer Fire Company #1 for 52 years, he has been an advocate for fire prevention and safety. As President of the company for 12 years, Mr. Mercurio was instrumental in developing a program to get smoke detectors to elderly and other high-risk citizens.

Mr. Mercurio's lifelong dedication and leadership in the volunteer fire service should serve as a model and inspiration for firefighters everywhere and has strengthened my own commitment and enthusiasm for public service.

A TRIBUTE TO HILDA DUFAUX

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to take this opportunity to share with my colleagues in Congress the news that Mrs. Hilda Willenburger DuFaux will celebrate her 90th birthday next week on September 9, 2002.

Mrs. DuFaux, a resident of Missouri's First Congressional District, was born in the year 1912. In 1936 Hilda married Charles Willenburger. They were blessed with three daughters, Karen, Kathy and Jeanette. She raised her daughters on her own after her husband passed away in 1954. In 1967 Hilda married Vince DuFaux and was devoted to him until he passed away in 1970. Today she is blessed with 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Hilda has lived in the city of Overland, Missouri for the past 64 years. Since moving to Overland, she has faithfully worshipped God at Presentation Catholic Church. Mrs. DuFaux

lives an active life and has a great many hobbies and interests including gardening, playing cards and going to garage sales. She enjoys babysitting her young great-grandson and is truly a cherished and loving member of her family and a treasured member of our community.

I salute Mrs. Hilda DuFaux as she achieves this special milestone. She has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to life. She is a remarkable woman whose strength, determination and spirit serve to inspire others.

SECOND OPINION COVERAGE ACT

HON. SUSAN DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Second Opinion Coverage Act of 2002—legislation that will ensure the accessibility and coverage of medical second opinions.

The Supreme Court's ruling this past June rekindled the debate surrounding managed care coverage. Patient protections and the need for a Patients' Bill of Rights again became topics of everyday conversation. Yet, Congress still has much work to do on crafting a strong Patients' Bill of Rights that can address patient needs.

In my opinion, the first step to enacting any sort of comprehensive health care reform is to provide patients with access to appropriate medical information. This is why I am introducing the Second Opinion Coverage Act.

As a member of the California State Assembly, I heard from a number of patients who saw a gap in their existing health care coverage. They wanted a clear process for medical second opinions. In particular, patients with challenging health conditions encountered difficulty obtaining a second opinion through their health plans. These patients faced complex procedures and wanted to be sure they were well educated about their treatment opinions.

Anyone who has ever experienced the prospect of surgery knows the value of receiving a second opinion. The peace of mind provided by a second professional's opinion, in addition to the value of new information received, is immeasurable. Indeed, second opinions can result in better patient care because of the increased dialogue about treatment options, and can also benefit health plans by potentially reducing the number of invasive procedures.

After meeting with patients, physicians and health groups, I authored a law in California that guarantees coverage of second opinions. If patients meet any one of five qualifying conditions, they are entitled to a timely second opinion by a "qualified health care professional," within 72 hours in cases of serious or imminent health threat. When another expert is not available within the provider group or network, the organization will pay for an appropriately qualified doctor outside of the plan. Patients are responsible for the costs of applicable co-payments.

While I can describe the benefits of this measure, I believe that individual experiences best demonstrate the value of enacting second opinion legislation. John Torres, one of my constituents, shared with me his family's

experience with medical second opinions. In 2000, a surgical procedure was recommended for Mr. Torres's young son, Nicholas. A consultation from another physician confirmed that a less-invasive procedure would effectively treat Nicholas's condition. The second opinion provided the Torres family with crucial information that helped them make the right decision for Nicholas. I am happy to say that Nicholas responded well to the treatment and is now an active seven-year old.

The law in California provides a good first step by offering a straightforward process for addressing second opinion requests for many in my state. Unfortunately, this legislation does not cover 4.3 million Californians enrolled in self-insured, federally regulated health plans. Nationwide, this translates into 56 million persons without guaranteed access to second opinions. All patients should have access to a full discussion and disclosure of their medical options.

I urge you, Mr. Speaker, and all of my colleagues to pass this critical legislation quickly into law.

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5120, FY03 TREASURY, POSTAL SERVICE APPROPRIATION

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, under the Treasury-Postal Appropriations Act of 1998, Congress approved funding for "a national media campaign to reduce and prevent drug use among young Americans."

Following this directive, the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) launched the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign. We are all familiar with this laudable program, and the powerful messages anti-drug messages it delivers across the airwaves to youth and parents across the country.

The Government Reform Committee has been conducting vigorous oversight on the Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign since its inception; carefully following implementation of the campaign to ensure the billions of taxpayer dollars invested are spent judiciously, efficiently, and legally.

However, from the very beginning of the Media Campaign, allegations of fraud have surrounded the multi-million dollar contract with the media firm Ogilvy & Mather.

The General Accounting Office (GAO) reported to the Committee incidents of false billing practices, sloppy contract management and lax oversight. The charges were so serious, the GAO referred its findings regarding improper billing practices to the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

What is so incredible is, despite significant allegations and evidence of mismanagement, misconduct and outright fraud, the ONDCP and the Department of the Navy, chose to continue to hire Ogilvy & Mather as the campaign's media contractor. This is in light of the fact that the GAO, for close to two years, had been documenting the incidents of suspect charges, falsified time sheets, and disallowed costs.

In February of this year, Ogilvy & Mather North America agreed to pay the government